GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:194
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
FALLING PRICE OF NATURAL RUBBER COFFEE ETC.
SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that rubber including natural rubber, coffee, cardamom and coconut etc. are falling day by day;

(b) whether the rubber farmers are facing serious crisis due to falling price of rubber;

(c) the total quantum of these items available in the market, separately;

(d) whether the Government have taken any step to procure said items from the market; and

(e) if so, the name of agencies authorized and quantum of these items collected so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir. In recent times the prices of rubber, coffee and coconut have shown a declining trend while prices of cardamom showed a fluctuating trend.

(b): The prices of rubber in the country have shown a declining trend during the last four years but are still ruling higher than the International Prices.

(c): the latest available production of the relevant commodities is indicated below:

Year	Commodity	Unit	Production
2000-2001	Rubber	Lakh tonnes	6.30
1999-2000	Coconut	Million nuts	14084.1
2000-2001	Coffee	Lakh tonnes	3.01
1999-2000	Cardamom	Thousand tonnes	10.40

(d) & (e): To protect the cultivators of coconut from distress sale the Government is implementing Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme for copra under which 2.32 lakh tonnes of copra was procured during 2000-01 by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), a Central nodal agency.

To ensure remunerative prices to the rubber growers for their produce, the Government has made market intervention in four phases since August, 1997 and procured a total of 53687 tonnes of Natural Rubber through State Trading Corporation (STC).

Coffee, being an exportable item, its prices are influenced by the operation of international demand and supply forces. There is no plan to procure coffee from the market through any Government agency. However, as regards cardamom, it can be covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) under conditions of glut.